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Amendments to the Drawings:

Figs. 1-4 have been amended to add a legend "Prior Art." Five replacement sheets for Figs. 1-8 are enclosed. Please replace them for original Figs. 1-8 in the file.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended and claims 6 and 7 canceled in this response. Claims 1-5 and 8-19 are pending for reconsideration.

The Examiner has objected to Figs 1-4 and suggested that these figures be designated by a legend "prior art." Accordingly, Applicants have amended Figs. 1-4 by adding a legend "prior art." Enclosed herewith are five replacement sheets for all of Fig. 1-8. No new matter is introduced by the amendment of the drawings. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner substitute the replacement sheets for original ones which are currently in the file. To be consistent, Applicants have also amended the Brief Description of the Drawing by deleting "according to the present invention ..." from the description of Fig.1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Figs. 1-4.

The Examiner has concluded that claims 6, 12, and 13 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For the simplicity, Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating all of the limitations of claim 6. Claim 6 is thus canceled. Claim 7 is also canceled because it would be inconsistent with amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5, 8-13, and 18 are allowable because they all incorporate the limitations of claim 6. Applicants have also amended claims 14 and 15 by making them depending from claim 1. Thus, claims 14 and 15 should be allowable. Claims 16, 17, and 19 should be allowable because they depend from claim 15.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow remaining claims 1-5 and 8-19. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone their attorney, Shao-Hua Guo, at (610) 359-2455 if a discussion of the application might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted, Rainer Karer et al.

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